

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

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News Media Services

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## Rebates and free energy checkups help local small businesses improve the bottom line

*To help small businesses see big savings, SMUD and its partners are giving 100 free energy and water checkups in two south Sacramento business corridors this week.*

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, SMUD Board Director Larry Carr, and California Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols kicked off the **Small Business Energy and Water Makeover** project on Oct. 6 by applauding efforts to help small businesses weather this bad economy.

“Small businesses are the engine of the region’s economy, and for them, energy costs are a concern second only to health care,” said SMUD Board Director Larry Carr, who represents the south Sacramento neighborhoods served by this project. “We want to show them that making a series of small changes will help them save money immediately.”

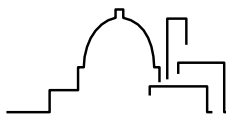
The project showcases water and energy efficiency programs offered through SMUD and the city of Sacramento and previews more money-saving opportunities arriving soon for Sacramento-area small businesses.

In this first, weeklong effort, representatives from SMUD and its partners are going door-to-door, offering efficiency checkups and information about energy and water efficiency rebates and incentives that will be available soon. By midweek, they had already reached more than 150 businesses and conducted energy checkups on more than 50. The goal is to get commitments from 100 businesses by Friday, Oct. 8, and schedule appointments for more comprehensive checkups and retrofits.

“SMUD hopes that the Energy and Water Makeover project will serve as a model as we move forward with similar efforts throughout the Sacramento region,” Carr said, “and that small businesses will see even little changes can save money and protect the environment.”

Mayor Johnson spoke on the importance of helping small businesses to weather the economic downturn. Teaching business owners how to make their businesses more efficient will help the economy recover, he said. Reducing energy and water use cuts a business’s operating expenses, and the owner can reinvest those savings in the business by retaining and even hiring more employees.

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## **2-2-2-2 Rebates and free energy checkups help local small businesses**

The project is intended to be a model for Sacramento's other small business communities and property business improvement districts for similar projects when grant funding becomes available. It is a partnership effort of SMUD, the city of Sacramento, Mayor Kevin Johnson's Greenwise initiative, and the California Air Resources Board. Other contributors are the Oak Park Business Association, Stockton Boulevard Partnership, and Sacramento's departments of Utilities and Economic Development.

Stay tuned for more information about rebates soon to be available to small businesses. For more information about SMUD's money-saving energy efficiency programs for businesses and residents, please visit [smud.org](http://smud.org).

**A print-quality file of the image below is available on request.**



**Suggested caption: Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson speaks to a gathering of SMUD and city of Sacramento energy and water auditors and local business and community leaders at the Oct. 6 kickoff of the Sacramento Small Business Energy & Water Makeover Project in south Sacramento.**

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